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Subject Proposed Amendments After Final

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Date April 9, 2004

Page 1 of 7

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Dear Examiner Bianco:

Attached is a set of claims for discussion in connection with Application Serial Number 09/729578. I respectfully request a telephonic interview and would like to discuss these proposed changes to the claims.



John Merkling

Appl. No.: 09/729578
Proposed Amendments after Final
(for discussion only, not for filing)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Appl. No. : 09/729578 Confirmation No.: 5244
Applicant : Muriel Keller
Filed : 12/4/2000
Title : Extracorporeal Blood Processing Method and Apparatus

TC/A.U. : 3762
Examiner : BIANCO, Patricia

Docket No. : BC-0181-P06

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AFTER FINAL
(FOR DISCUSSION ONLY, NOT FOR FILING)

The undersigned respectfully requests a telephonic interview with Examiner Bianco. In preparation for the requested interview, Applicant submits the following proposed amendments for discussion.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method for extracorporeal collection of blood components from a donor/patient, comprising:

flowing blood into a blood processing vessel for continuous blood processing;
separating platelets from said blood within said blood processing vessel;
separating red blood cells from said blood within said blood processing vessel
continuously with said step of separating platelets;